

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A trial-use power toothbrush, comprising:

a trial power toothbrush designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available power toothbrush;

a power system, including a battery, to provide power for the trial power toothbrush for only a selected short trial use period time which is long enough, approximately sixty brushings, for approximately one month of use, that the user becomes accommodated to the operation of the trial power toothbrush and can evaluate the performance thereof, but is substantially less than a normal period of use, wherein the trial power toothbrush approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial toothbrush for said selected period of time; and

~~means~~ a control circuit, separate from the battery, preventing further operation of the power toothbrush at the end of said selected period of time.

2. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the power system includes a non-rechargeable battery.

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) An article of claim 2, wherein the non-rechargeable battery has a power discharge characteristic such that at the end of said short period of time, the voltage output from the battery is insufficient to operate the trial power toothbrush.

5. (currently amended) An article of claim 31, wherein the ~~power~~ control circuit controls the power to operate the trial toothbrush at a level approximately that of the corresponding commercial toothbrush over said short period of time, based on the voltage output of the battery over the short period of time, including means for compensating for any decrease in voltage output of the battery over the short period of time.

6. (currently amended) An article of claim 31, wherein the ~~power~~ control circuit provides lower than full power output to drive the toothbrush for a portion of time at the beginning of the short period of time so as to accommodate the user to operation of

the toothbrush.

7. (currently amended) A trial-use power personal care appliance, comprising:

a trial power personal care appliance designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available personal care appliance;

a power system, including a battery, to provide power for the trial power appliance for only a selected short period of time which is long enough, approximately sixty uses, for approximately one month of use, that the user becomes accommodated to the operation of the trial power appliance and can evaluate the performance thereof, but substantially less than a normal period of use, wherein the trial power appliance approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial appliance for said selected period of time; and

means, separate from the battery, preventing further operation of the personal care appliance at the end of said selected period of time.

8. (original) An article of claim 7, wherein the power system includes a non-rechargeable battery.

9. (previously amended) An article of claim 8, wherein the preventing means includes a power control circuit which in combination with the battery controls the operation of the trial power appliance and terminates operation thereof following said selected period of time.

10. (withdrawn) A method for introduction of a power toothbrush to a potential customer for a limited period of time, comprising the steps of:

providing to a user a trial power toothbrush designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available power toothbrush, wherein the trial power toothbrush includes a power system which provides power for the trial power toothbrush for only a selected short period of time, but which is long enough that the user can become accommodated to the operation of the trial power toothbrush and can evaluate the performance thereof, wherein the trial power toothbrush approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial toothbrush for said selected period of time; and

providing information to the user concerning use and disposal of the trial power toothbrush.

11. (withdrawn) A method of claim 10, wherein the power system includes a non-rechargeable battery.

12. (withdrawn) A method of claim 11, wherein the power system includes a power control circuit which in combination with the battery controls the operation of the trial power toothbrush and terminates operation thereof following said selected period of time.

13. (currently amended) A trial-use power toothbrush, comprising:

a trial power toothbrush designed to emulate the performance of a corresponding commercially available power toothbrush;

a power system, including a battery, to provide power for the power toothbrush for only a selected trial use period of time which is long enough that the user becomes accommodated to the operation of the trial power toothbrush and can evaluate the performance thereof, but is substantially less than a normal period of use, wherein the power trial toothbrush approximates the operation of the corresponding commercial toothbrush for a selected period of time; and

~~means~~ a control circuit, separate from the battery, preventing further operation of the power toothbrush at the end of said selected trial use period of time.